THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, the 18th March 1959.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, Madras, at half past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Wheat products

* 751 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to increase the supply of 'atta' and wheat products to this State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Atta produced in the State is surplus to internal requirements. As regards maida and rawa, supply as well as distribution is being regulated by permit system, from the middle of December 1958. The Government of India have been moved to allow the import of a quota of rawa from the Northern Zone.

* 752 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to supply good quality rawa to this State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: As this State is deficit in the production of rawa, the Government of India have already been addressed to allow an import of 2,000 tons of rawa per month into this State. Rawa produced in the local mills is now distributed to wholesalers and retailers and actual users (i.e., bakeries, etc.) on permits issued by the Collectors.

* 753 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI: }
SRI A. A. RASHEED: } Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have represented to the Centre to remove the restrictions imposed on the import of maida and rawa; and

(*b*) the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) & (*b*) Maida produced in the State is sufficient to meet the local needs. The Government of India have been addressed to allow an import of 2,000 tons of rawa per month into this State and their reply is awaited.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: Sir, may I know whether the shortage was due to increased consumption or decreased supply?